

# Cleveland's Contemporary Youth Orchestra will celebrate its twentieth season with a free alumni performance

December 15, 2014

CLEVELAND, OH – Contemporary Youth Orchestra will celebrate its 20-year anniversary Saturday, December 20, 2014 at 7pm with its first-ever Alumni Orchestra Concert at Cleveland State University's Waetjen Auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public.

The event will welcome 115 CYO alumni back to the stage. Members of the CYO Alumni Orchestra will include professionally touring musicians and casual players who are reconvening from across the country.

The organization enjoys passionate alumni participation. One alumnus commented, "CYO ignited my passion for contemporary and new music. CYO and Liza encouraged me to be who I am no matter what and I wouldn't be who I am today without it."

To capture this energy – and to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the staff began planning the Alumni Orchestra event last year. Participants signed up online. Music was distributed via email last week so members could begin practicing. The group will rehearse Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> before the performance.

Works to be performed include Danzon No.2 (Arturo Marquez), Mars (Holst), Internet Symphony (Tan Dun), selections from Firebird 1919 (Stravinsky), and Sun Up (Derek Snyder).

Additionally in Season 20, CYO will present *The Sound of Fear* on March 15, 2015 that will explore music from Poltergeist, Alien, Jaws, and other popular movies. The music will be performed with film.

CYO's annual Rock the Orchestra production will welcome music legend Graham Nash at Severance Hall on June 5, 2015. Ticket sales will begin in March.

The group will also continue their central role as the official orchestra of the nationally televised AP Music Awards in July 2015.

Contemporary Youth Orchestra is the first and only youth orchestra in the country dedicated to the study and performance of contemporary orchestral literature.

CYO was founded in 1995, is currently in its 20<sup>th</sup> season and is in residence at Cleveland State University. CYO is composed of 115 students from 64 Northeast Ohio school districts.

More information about CYO Alumni is at [cyorchestra.org/alumni](http://cyorchestra.org/alumni)

